

THE A. F. of L. World News Service  
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and abroad, and available for the trade  
and public.

WHOLE NO. 1760

WILLIAM GREEN, President

# WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE  
A MILLION DOLLARS  
FOR VICTORY

VOL. 30, No. 1

## Union-Baiting Will Hurt Business, Fenton Warns Reactionary Bosses

Washington, D. C.—Employers making plans to slash wages and small unions after the war were warned by Frank Fenton, A. F. of L. director of organization, that by such methods they will be hurting the system of "free enterprise" which they now glorify.

"If the initiative of private industry is sufficient to provide jobs for all who want to work, well and good," he said. "The American way of life is that way. But if the initiative of industry stops in refusing to open up new markets by competitive selling and by any such open shop methods as characterized by the labor law, then the workers will turn to their governments for aid and get a program of government-financed public works big enough to fill the gap."

Fenton added that if employers return to the tactics they used before World War I, then the capitalist system is in grave danger of crumbling.

"Business has the responsibility of not only taking about free enterprise," he said. "Business must also act as if it believes in free enterprise," he declared.

Business leaders were warned, too, in the forefront of the battle for the sound social security system and stable labor relations. Genuine free enterprise cannot really exist in a world of unlimited industrial control without them.

"Also, strong and responsible unions

are indispensable parts of free enterprise. Sound business leaders must recognize this fact immediately and make sure that they do not destroy the labor movement because to do so would be placing the seed of their own destruction."

Fenton insisted this country cannot afford to leave the issue of full employment to business alone.

"We must learn to wage peace with the same vigor we have used in waging war," he asserted.

Steps need to be taken now to give workers assurance they will have jobs after the war, Fenton maintained. "Employers" won't do the trick, he said; concrete moves must be made to provide the "security of unemployment insurance."

Among these moves, he contended, should be a national system of adequate unemployment insurance to pay for the relaxation of stranded workers when production begins to pick up after the war.

The War Production Board to permit reconversion of war plants to civilian output at the earliest possible moment.

Business leaders were warned, too, that they will not save themselves by playing off veterans against labor. Fenton claimed that most servicemen would be glad to work for the employer in safeguarding the labor movement, and for the full employment.

## AFL Members Work Through Holidays To Spurt Critical War Production

Washington, D. C.—Millions of AFL members throughout the nation spent the day on the job over the New Year holiday in order to speed war production in response to appeals from AFL President William Green.

Reports showed that instead of a complete shutdown over the holiday, several thousands of plants were able to continue operations on a somewhat reduced scale.

Newsweek, newspaper again blamed labor for "shameless," despite the fact that the Government did not decide to call for continued operations on the holiday until almost the last moment.

A particularly glowing example of service to the war effort was offered by AFL workers on Christmas Day at the J. A. Jones shipyard near Brunswick, Ga. More than 1,250 union employees worked on that day without pay to speed completion of a merchant ship on schedule.

"They donated their day for the day to the U. S. Treasury," Maritime Commission Chairman Land declared.

"This finest Christmas present ever presented. Approval is well merited work to endorse this unselfish and spontaneous outbreak of devotion to the holiday until almost the last moment."

The plan for working on the holiday was inaugurated by a number of the Baltimore area who presented a list, sent in to the War Production Board, of the workers at the shipyard who would be working on the holiday.

This is the spirit of the campaign against the enemy. This is the spirit that will achieve our victory. This is the spirit that should inspire every man, woman and child in the country.

Officers of the labor-union press, please note this!

## United Opposition Formed Against Forces Manpower

### WLB Grants Higher Foundry Pay To Recruit Additional Workers

Washington, D. C.—The National War Labor Board finally swallowed its pride and granted higher wages to foundry workers in order to help recruit badly needed manpower in critical industries and forge shops by permitting wage increases of 10 cents an hour above present rates.

Labor and the War Department have been urging the Board to take such action for many weeks, but despite acute production shortages, the Board until now refused.

At that, the WLB has agreed to action by requiring certification from the War Production Board and the War Manpower Commission that such wage increases are necessary before they can be authorized.

The WLB said that its decision followed an investigation made at the request of the WLB, WPC and the War Relocation Authority in solving a serious production problem in many foundries and forge shops producing castings and forgings for tanks, airplanes, artillery and other war supplies.

It said that the manpower shortage was concentrated in the common labor and semi-skilled occupations, hence certification could be directed to the higher paid classifications "only in very exceptional cases."

Common labor in many foundries has a starting rate of only 50 cents an hour.

The WLB said that it is desirable to increase other classifications in the same plants to avoid internal inequalities, such adjustments may be made, but it added that the rate of increase should not handle all cases involving certified areas and directed regional boards to speed the certification here as a provision against disrupting foundry wage rates in any area.

The board's recognition that "the level of wages has been a contributing factor in the foundry manpower shortage" is expected to be brought into deliberations on other pending cases involving low wage industries.

## Labor, Industry, Farmers, Join In Hitting Edges, By Brynne

Washington, D. C.—Labor, industry and agriculture are making a firm front against legislation which would strip the War Relocation Authority of its powers to make mobilization methods urged by the War Relocation Authority. J. M. Byrne to drag manpower for increased war production.

Edgemoor for these groups served notice on Brynne that the voluntary methods of the War Relocation Authority to be followed in the case of production would be the only way to get the necessary manpower to be not promptly and efficiently. Any other course will result in chaos and confusion, they warned.

Their view was expressed in a letter to the White House came after Brynne had issued a new commandment to the War Relocation Authority. This time, he sought to correct what he felt was a "misinterpretation" of the War Relocation Authority's policy by directing that employers who fail to comply fully with regulations of the War Manpower Commission be subject to criminal penalties for having their priorities in materials withheld on the theory that the American people are not so tolerant of such a situation.

While insisting on the necessity of management, labor representatives said the War Relocation Authority should be more heavily in touch with the War Relocation Authority to speed up the production of war supplies.

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## 260-Million-Dollar Housing Plan Ready For Post-War By N. Y. City

New York City—Plans for new public housing here to cost \$260,000,000, designed to clear away war-time slums and provide for the needs of the city's population, were ready for post-war by N. Y. City.

The plan, which was approved by the city board of estimates, calls for the construction of 10,000 new housing units in the next three years after the war, have been drawn up by the New York Housing Authority.

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With this \$260,000,000 in State housing funds already available, the Housing Authority also includes a plan for the construction of 10,000 new housing units in the next three years after the war, have been drawn up by the New York Housing Authority.

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## Florida Law "On Ice" Till Court Test; Labor Foes Blocked In California

### Enforcement Of Ban Against Union Shop Held Up By State Official

Tallahassee, Fla.—State Attorney General Tom Watson announced today that he would not attempt to enforce the new Florida law which bans union membership in the state until the U. S. Supreme Court has ruled on the constitutionality of the law.

Watson said that he had received a letter from the U. S. Supreme Court, which had asked him to delay enforcement of the law until the court has ruled on the constitutionality of the law.

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New Drive For Open Shop  
Falls When Citizens  
Refuse To Sign

San Francisco—A new anti-union drive launched by the California Manufacturers Association has collapsed because of the refusal of citizens to sign petitions to get the proposed law on the ballot.

The Manufacturers Association had been working to get the proposed law on the ballot, but the citizens refused to sign the petitions.

## Production Program Now Geared On Theory of Prolonged War On Nazis

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## Strike Losses Sharply Reduced

Washington, D. C.—Strike losses in November amounted to only one-tenth of one percent of the available working time, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Monday's labor lost just one day of working time, the month represented less than one-fourth of the amount lost in the same month in 1941, according to the Bureau's official records.

In all, there were 1,000,000 man-days of working time lost in November, a reduction of 65 percent from the previous month. The number of workers involved totaled 300,000, as compared to 250,000 in October.

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## Wharton, Ex-Machinists' Head Dies; Was AFL Executive Council Member

Washington, D. C.—Arthur O. Wharton, former president of the International Association of Machinists and in his day one of the ablest leaders of organized labor in America, has passed away at the age of 71.

He died Dec. 21 in Tucson, Ariz., where he had made his home for the past five years and where he had been suffering from a long illness.

Wharton headed the I.A.M. from 1928 to 1939, during boom and depression years, and was re-elected to the post of president of the organization. He was elected to the office in 1939, and he was re-elected in 1941.

Wharton was a member of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

Well over a half a century ago "Art" Wharton started as a machinist in the Santa Fe shops in Union, N. M. After the fall of 1901, he became one of the leading labor leaders in the Santa Fe shops.

In the last subsequent years he never ceased up for a day and night, he was completely blind to the point of the day.

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## Columbia Typo Union, Oldest In U. S., Celebrates Its 130th Anniversary

Washington, D. C.—Columbia Typographical Union of this city, claiming the title of America's oldest, celebrated its 130th anniversary on January 7.

The event was celebrated with a banquet at the Willard Hotel in the city, presided over by the union's president, J. M. Byrne.

Many labor leaders and government officials joined with the union's members in the festivities.

Other unions were founded in this country before 1815, but none of them survived. J. M. Byrne, president of the local, declared.

He added that he had come through labor histories and found no other unions in the world with 130 years of unbroken operation to its credit.

Started originally as the Columbia Typographical Society, the union has many "firsts" in its record. Members celebrated the first collective bargaining agreement, established the first "closed shop" in 1866, and were the first to win the eight-hour day in 1866, nearly 60 years before that schedule became the rule in the printing trades.

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## Navy Seeks 10,000 More Workers For Jobs At Pearl Harbor Base

Kanawha City, Kan.—An appeal for 10,000 more skilled workers has been sent out by authorities at the navy yard at Pearl Harbor, it was learned by the Associated Press from the navy's official press release.

J. A. Freeman, editor and manager of "The Hollenbacker Journal," a local newspaper, said that the navy was looking for workers to help in the construction of the new base at Pearl Harbor.

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## N. Y. Federation Drafts Program

Albany, N. Y.—The New York State Federation of Labor has drafted a program for the coming year, which includes a number of measures to improve the lot of workers.

The program, drafted by delegates representing 1,600,000 AFL members at the recent annual legislative conference, calls for:

1. A campaign to secure state Fair Employment Practices Committee to protect workers from discrimination on the basis of race, color or creed.

2. A campaign to secure state laws providing adequate medical care and compensation for workers injured on the job.

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## TVA Reports Higher Income, Production

Washington, D. C.—The Tennessee Valley Authority reported to Congress today that in the year ending June 30, 1941, it had net income from sales of \$114,116,000, an increase of \$1,100,000 over the year ending June 30, 1940.

The TVA reported that it had also produced 1,100,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, an increase of 100,000 kilowatt-hours over the year ending June 30, 1940.

## ASKS LABOR'S HELP TO FIGHT CHISELS

New York City—Price and rationing boards were urged over the telephone by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to help the government in its fight against chisels.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is urging the government to help the government in its fight against chisels.

## ROOSEVELT FREEZES CIVIL SERVICE RATES

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt issued a special executive order which freezes the pay of civil service employees in the federal government.

The order, which was signed by the president, freezes the pay of civil service employees in the federal government.

## APL ALUMINUM UNION WINS PLANT ELECTION

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Aluminum Workers Union won a sharp victory in the election at the Aluminum Plant in the state of Alaska.

The union, which is a part of the AFL, won the election at the Aluminum Plant in the state of Alaska.

## APL LEADERS ATTEND COMPTON MEMORIAL SERVICE

Tarrytown, N. Y.—AFL leaders and the Compton Memorial Service were held at the Compton Memorial Service in Tarrytown, N. Y.

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